

Message Text

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ORIGIN FEAE-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EB-07 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

EUR-12 OIC-02 /121 R

DRAFTED BY FEA:LD'ANDREA:GAS

APPROVED BY IO/CMD:RAPOOLE

IO/CMD:LKAHN

EB/FSE:DWILSON

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R 220232Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 015557

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, ENRG

SUBJECT: ECE COMMITTEE ON GAS, TWENTY-SECOND SESSION,
GENEVA, JANUARY 26-30, 1976

THE FOLLOWING ARE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE U.S. DELEGATE ON
THE SUBJECT MEETING:

ITEM 1 - ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

THE U.S. DELEGATION MAY SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE PROVI-
SIONAL AGENDA.

ITEM 2 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

THE CURRENT VICE-CHAIRMAN, MR. G. ROBERT (FRANCE) IS
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EXPECTED TO BE NAMED CHAIRMAN. FOLLOWING PAST PRACTICES

OF THE ECE, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN WILL BE SELECTED FROM AMONG EASTERN DELEGATES. THE U.S. MAY SUPPORT ANY SLATE OF OFFICERS AGREED TO BY THE WESTERN CAUCUS.

ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (GAS/R. 23)

THE COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW MATTERS ARISING FROM THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELEVANT TO THE

COMMITTEE'S WORK. A SUMMARY OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IS CONTAINED IN GAS/R. 23.

IN REGARD TO THE COMMISSION'S RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ON THE WORK OF THE GAS COMMITTEE, THERE APPEAR TO BE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OR AREAS OF CONTROVERSY. THE PROCESS OF CONTINUED COOPERATION AND CONCENTRATION OF ACTIVITIES AMONG THE COMMITTEE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES SHOULD BE ENDORSED AND ENCOURAGED. PROLIFERATION OF SUBSIDIARY GROUPS OR AD HOC GROUPS SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED. THE CURRENT STRUCTURE OF THE GAS COMMITTEE, COUPLED WITH SEMINARS OR SYMPOSIA, APPEARS BROAD ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE GAS INDUSTRY. ACTIVITIES WHICH EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR INTENSIFYING THE SEARCH FOR AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES OF NATURAL GAS AS WELL AS MAKING THE MOST RATIONAL USE OF THE AVAILABLE GAS SUPPLY SHOULD BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY.

ITEM 4 - EXAMINATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S STUDY ON MEASURES FOR INCREASED ENERGY ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY (E/ECE/883 AND ADD. 1)
(DOCUMENT NOT AVAILABLE)

ITEM 5 - THE GAS SITUATION IN EUROPE AND NATURAL GAS MARKETS

US STATEMENT POUCHED. OTHER COMMENTS, IF APPROPRIATE, WILL BE MADE DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING.

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ITEM 6 - SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS RELATING TO SEA PIPELINES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GAS (GAS/SEM 2/AC 1/2, GAS/R.20)

THE SEMINAR ON SEA TRANSPORT OF GAS IS ONE WHICH THE U.S. HAS ENDORSED AND SUPPORTED. THE U.S. DELEGATION HAS PROVIDED THE SECRETARIAT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO U.S. EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING AND OPERATING OFFSHORE GAS PIPELINES. THE SEMINAR SHOULD PROVE TO BE VERY INFORMA-

TIVE AND USEFUL AS EXPLORATION FOR AND DEVELOPMENT
OF GAS RESOURCES REACHES FURTHER INTO THE OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF.

ITEM 7 - SYMPOSIUM ON THE GAS INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT
(GAS/SEM .3/AC 1/2, GAS/R. 21)

(DOCUMENT NOT AVAILABLE.) NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
PROVIDE ANY COMMENTS.

ITEM 8 - WORK OF THE COMMITTEE'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(A) GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF
GAS (GAS/GE 3/6)

THERE APPEAR TO BE NO ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE GROUP OF
EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF GAS IN ITS
SIXTH SESSION THAT ARE CONTROVERSIAL IN NATURE OR
REQUIRE SPECIFIC COMMENTS. THE WORK PROGRAM APPEARS TO
MEET THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION, BOTH
FOR THE SHORT AND LONG TERM. INsofar AS THE U.S.
ARRANGING A STUDY TOUR OF LNG STORAGE FACILITIES FOR
PEAK SHAVING PURPOSES, THE REQUEST IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.
THE U.S. DELEGATION ATTENDING THE JANUARY 26 PLENARY
SESSION MAY BE IN THE POSITION OF PROVIDING MORE
INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE U.S. HOSTING A
STUDY TOUR.

(B) GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF GAS
(GAS/GE 2/6)

THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD ENDORSE THE WORK ACTIVITIES
OF THIS GROUP WHICH WILL EXAMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
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RATIONAL USE OF GAS AND RELEVANT CONSERVATION MEASURES.
THE NATURAL GAS SHORTAGE PREVAILING IN THE U.S. HAS
GIVEN GREATER IMPETUS TO THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHING
VARIOUS MEASURES THAT WILL ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT
USE OF AVAILABLE GAS SUPPLIES. NATURAL GAS HAS COME
TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A CLEAN BURNING EFFICIENT FUEL AND
ITS EFFICIENT USE MUST BE ENHANCED. WITH RESPECT
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN AD HOC MEETING
ON THE RATIONAL USE OF GAS AND RELEVANT CONSERVATION
PROBLEMS, IT MAY BE QUITE APPROPRIATE THAT SUCH AN
INVESTIGATION BE CARRIED OUT BY THIS GROUP OF EXPERTS.

(C) GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STATISTICS (GAS/GE 1/6)

(DOCUMENT NOT AVAILABLE)

(D) GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATURAL GAS RESOURCES
(GAS/AC 2/6)

DISCUSSION MAY ARISE ON THE PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE GROUP, WHICH WILL RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE ECE'S CONCERN FOR THE INITIATION OF STUDIES WHICH WILL "ACHIEVE INCREASED ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE EXTRACTION, CONVERSION, TRANSPORT AND USE OF ENERGY IN THE ECE REGION." IN REGARD TO THE EXTRACTION OF

NATURAL GAS, THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF RECOVERING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF GAS KNOWN TO EXIST IN SO CALLED "TIGHT" SANDS. ONE OF THE TECHNIQUES FIRST EMPLOYED FOR THIS PURPOSE WAS NUCLEAR STIMULATION. BECAUSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN TESTED AND FOUND UNACCEPTABLE AT THIS TIME. ANOTHER TECHNIQUE PURSUED AT THIS TIME IS MASSIVE HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, WHEREBY FLUIDS ARE INJECTED INTO GAS RESERVOIRS, UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE PERMEABILITY OF GAS RESERVOIRS, AND THUS HELP TO ACHIEVE INCREASED GAS PRODUCTION.

ACTIVITIES BY THE GROUP WHICH TEND TO ENHANCE THE RECOVERY OF NATURAL GAS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, AND RECEIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT BY THE U.S. DELEGATION.

ITEM 9 - EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER INFORMATION

THE U.S. DELEGATION PLANS TO SHOW A FILM TO THE COMMITTEE ON A TIMELY AND INTERESTING TOPIC. FURTHERMORE, AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED, THE U.S. DELEGATION MAY INFORM THE COMMITTEE THAT THE U.S. IS CONSIDERING ARRANGING A STUDY TOUR OF LNG STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PEAK SHAVING PURPOSES, AS DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF GAS.

ITEM 10 - ACTIVITIES OF THE OTHER ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAS (GAS/R. 26)

A REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENT DISCLOSES NO SIGNIFICANT ITEM OF IMPORTANCE THAT HAS A BEARING ON THE GAS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES. THE SYNOPTIC PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS RELATING TO GAS HAVE RECEIVED GENERAL ENDORSEMENT BY THE U.S. DELEGATION IN THE PAST OR ARE OF SUCH

NATURE THAT ARE RATHER UNIQUE IN NATURE AND ARE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAS INDUSTRY OPERATING IN EUROPE RATHER THAN THE U.S. APPROPRIATE COMMENTS WILL BE MADE, IF NECESSARY, DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF THIS AGENDA ITEM.

ITEM 11 - PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES (GAS/R. 27)

A REVIEW OF THE DOCUMENT DISCLOSES THAT THERE ARE NO SHORT-TERM OR LONG-TERM PROGRAMS OVER WHICH THE U.S. DELEGATION MAY TAKE EXCEPTION.

ITEM 12 - OTHER BUSINESS

NO COMMENTS AT THIS TIME. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MEETING AGENDA, NATURAL GAS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE015557
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LD'ANDREA:GAS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0650
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760131/aaaabbad.tel
Line Count: 238
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN FEAE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE COMMITTEE ON GAS, TWENTY-SECOND SESSION, GENEVA, JANUARY 26-30, 1976
TAGS: ENRG, ECE
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006